

Had I been present for rollcall No. 174, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 173, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 172, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 171, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 169, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 168, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 167, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 166, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 165, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 164, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 163, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 162, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 161, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING RSVP OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY'S 35 YEARS OF FACILITATING VOLUNTARISM

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2008

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, on behalf of all the citizens of the 7th Congressional District of Pennsylvania, it gives me great pleasure to recognize the Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of Montgomery on its 35th Anniversary.

RSVP of Montgomery County, established in 1973, promotes voluntarism among persons 55 years of age and older, and provides opportunities for them to pursue their interests and use their abilities to help meet critical human needs in Montgomery County. This double mission is beneficial to all concerned. Major findings from more than 30 rigorous and longitudinal studies have found that seniors who volunteer have greater longevity, higher functionality, lower rates of depression, and less incidence of heart disease. With the large number of baby boomers (27 percent of the population) now reaching senior adulthood, RSVP's mission is becoming increasingly relevant to society as a whole. While volunteers are bettering their own lives, they are contributing invaluable service to the community at large. Last year RSVP of Montgomery County's 1,300 volunteers contributed more than 100,000 hours to 300 nonprofit agencies and 11 special programs that RSVP has developed to assist vulnerable sectors of society.

In the area of arts and culture, 112 volunteers contributed 7,725 hours assisting 30 museums, libraries, historical sites, nature preserves, cultural organizations, and performance groups. In the area of health, 253 volunteers contributed 30,000 hours working in 48 hospitals, hospices, rehab centers, adult day care centers, nursing homes, the American Red Cross, March of Dimes, Easter Seal Society, Wellness Center, and organizations dedicated to specific diseases. In the area of Human Services, 691 volunteers contributed

36,000 hours working in 78 various human service agencies throughout the county including the Women's Center, Manna on Main Street, Meals on Wheels programs, hotlines, shelters, soup kitchens, and more.

Within the 11 RSVP programs, 45 trained volunteers contributed 3,018 hours of service tutoring over 300 American and foreign-born adults in GED, ESL and basic literacy programs; 61 trained volunteers contributed 2,153 hours working with 200 young elementary school children, helping them improve their reading skills and confidence; 17 trained volunteer counselors contributed 1,908 hours assisting more than 1,000 seniors with health insurance concerns; 77 volunteers contributed 2,634 hours assisting frail/homebound elders with nonmedical tasks of daily living; 15 volunteers contributed 851 hours reading to Head Start children on a regular basis; 30 volunteers at Gwynedd Estates contributed more than 500 hours wrapping new gift books for Head Start children; 9 volunteers contributed 213 hours visiting special needs children in their homes on a weekly basis, providing the children with companionship and skill reinforcement while affording their families needed respite time and emotional support; 77 mentors contributed 6,967 hours meeting on a one-on-one, long-term basis with 82 elementary, middle, and high school students whose potential is compromised by difficult life circumstances; 27 volunteers contributed 481 hours enhancing emergency preparedness awareness in Montgomery County; 84 volunteers contributed 6,738 hours as tutors, aides, docents, and presenters to children in schools and agencies serving youth; 88 volunteer speakers and trained clowns contributed 2,064 hours making topical presentations and providing entertainment to community organizations, clubs, and nursing homes; and 44 retired executives, professionals, managers, and technicians contributed 2,973 hours helping nonprofit agencies build their capacity and enhance their service delivery.

Just two examples of RSVP volunteers in action are:

Ron, a retired businessman, has been a mentor to two brothers—Josh who is 10 and Nathan who is 12—through the Prétogé program. Originally, Ron was matched with Josh, but he said it broke his heart to leave Nathan behind when they went on excursions because the brothers are like "two peas in a pod". The boys' mother is seriously ill with Scleroderma and disabled. There is no family in the area except for an absentee father. The boys take care of their mother by cooking, cleaning, feeding her when necessary and remaining quiet so that she can rest. Both boys are motivated to do well and are well-behaved, but needed someone to build their confidence and take them on outings. Ron has taken them to the Camden Aquarium, the National Constitution Center, Fireman's Hall, the Auto Show, ball games, movies, and amusement parks. Ron is married but never had children. On Fathers Day last June the boys called him to wish him an honorary Fathers Day. At Prétogé's 10th anniversary event in November, Ron brought the boys and their mother. At that event, the mother asked to stand and thank Ron and Prétogé for all they have done for her children.

Volunteer, Jan, goes once a week to Conshohocken Head Start where she spends two hours reading to the children. She also

tries to cultivate their observational skills through various activities such as putting an item in a bag and asking the children to feel it and guess what it is; or putting items on a tray, having the children look at them, and then covering them with a towel and asking the children to remember what they saw.

I applaud this great organization and their volunteers for all the work they have done and look forward to RSVP of Montgomery County's next 35 years of helping seniors help others.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF REPUBLIC DAY OF AZERBAIJAN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 90th anniversary of Republic Day, celebrated by the people of Azerbaijan and in recognition of the Republic's rich and diverse history.

Every year on May 28, the Azerbaijani people celebrate the establishment of the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan. It was on this day in 1918, that Azerbaijan was first declared as an independent Democratic Republic, the first of its kind in the Middle East. Azerbaijan connects the Eastern and Western worlds; located on the western coast of the Caspian Sea, in the center of what was the historical Silk Road. The country is home to more than 70 diverse ethnic groups and its history can be traced back to over a million years ago to the Azykh cave. I join the Azerbaijani people in celebrating their rich cultural heritage and history on this year's Republic Day celebration.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of the Azerbaijani people and in recognition of the country's rich culture and history.

HONORING MATHEW MILLER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Mathew Miller of Grain Valley, Missouri. Mathew is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1310, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Mathew has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Mathew has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Mathew Miller for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.